

Commander's Notes
5 February 2006

Sometimes being a Wing Commander is even harder than herding cats! Some of you are frustrated, too. I hear it in your e mail. Please stop building up those frustrations, second-guessing and criticizing one another. Communicate! Right now our missions may seem confused by many changes and financial concerns. Winter is our "slow season", but let's not waste our time.

I was disappointed that more people could not attend last Sunday's staff meeting. It was a time to discuss, arrive at a consensus, plan and make decisions about our activities. Always we are very active in the summer. This year even more is happening and continuing through the fall until November. Let's get our act together now and enjoy the fun together then.

During last week actions were taken. Plans were made. Here are some. More will follow.

Wing Conference will be held July 7-9 at Castleton State College. Basis for the decision was chiefly cost, availability of resources and a desire to try something different. It will emphasize education and training. Now is your time for additional suggestions.

For some time there has been concern by the Finance Committee that member payments for flying activities primarily, have not been tracked. A new system is being worked out so wing knows what accounts are receivable and will send reminders of overdue payments. Please let us know of any problems with the system so that we can work out the kinks.

Our new C182 is due to at Montpelier on Sunday. Capt. Ameden and Capt. Rouelle spent the week at Cessna in Kansas learning about it and its G-1000 glass cockpit. They will begin training other pilots soon. Unit commanders are approving lists of people who want training which will be paid from special training funds from the Air Force. If you are interested, you can find out more from your unit commander.

Speaking of new things, work is progressing nicely on the CAP hanger/Northeast Kingdom Composite Squadron Headquarters. It is a beautiful and functional facility. Look forward for time of an open house.

I announced that the wing flight release resources would change immediately the from our web site to MIMS. Perhaps I was too hasty. But it's definitely not new news that we must transition and nothing was happening. Therefore, I am changing the cut- over date to March 1st giving a final chance for pilots to register their data in MIMS and make sure that the information there is current and correct.

The Webmaster has raised concerns about the confidentiality of our web site. I've looked at what NER and some other wings are doing. What are your experiences? What do you suggest for us?

I am concerned that there is a perception that I'm not providing enough chance for input and discussion before I make decisions. Sometimes the final decision is my call alone. Even then I welcome input and will seek out advice. It is our wing, not my wing. Every week new issues, ideas, requests and problems come up. I don't always get the word out and keep everyone informed, as I should. I'd like to know if these notes are effective. After you read them, would you e mail a comment?. I plan to be at Headquarters every Thursday afternoon if you want to drop by or phone in. If another time is better for you, with prior arrangement I'll make myself available for your convenience. Like all of you I have a family and a job. I appreciate the value of you time and your interest in the wing.

Gloria is at Headquarters on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. She has done a fantastic job of updating our wing. She takes pride in her work and joy in helping us. Even though she's being paid, a heartfelt "Thank You" from each of us would be appreciated, I'm sure. Thanks, Gloria.

The next Staff Meeting/Commander's Call will be Saturday, March 11 at Headquarters following the Color Guard Competition. I am hoping cadets from every unit will be participating in this event.

Col. Clark